GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:377
ANSWERED ON:19.02.2009
PROMOTION OF FPIS IN HIMACHAL PRADESH
Thakur Shri Anurag Singh

Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any assessment has been made regarding production of fruits in the country including Himachal Pradesh;

(b) if so, whether the number of Food Processing Industries (FPIs) are relatively less as against the production of fruits; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps taken by the Government for promotion of FPIs in Himachal Pradesh?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (I/C) (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAI)

(a) to (c): The National Horticulture Board (NHB), an autonomous organization under the Ministry of Agriculture compiles the estimate of area and production of important fruit and vegetable crops in the country. As per the NHB estimate, the total production of fruits in the country was 63.50 Million tonnes from an area of 5.77 million hectare during 2007-08. In Himachal Pradesh, apples, apricots, peaches, plums, almonds, grapes, and chilgozas are grown in the upper region and mangoes, lemons, citrus & pears are grown in the lower regions in large quantities and with excellent quality. However, all the fruits are not suitable for processing purposes. Only processable varieties of fruit are processed out of the total production. As on 31.12.07, 154 fruit and vegetable processing units have been licensed under Fruit Products Order, 1955 in Himachal Pradesh.

The Government, through its schemes for financial assistance and other promotional measures, facilitates creation of food related infrastructure including processing facilities aimed at reducing wastages, enhancing value addition and increasing shelf life.

Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MFPI) has been implementing various schemes for promotion and development of food processing industries in the country. Under the Scheme for Technology Upgradation/ Modernization/ Establishment of Food Processing Industries, MFPI extends financial assistance to food processing units in the form of grant-in-aid @ 25% of the cost of plant and machinery and technical civil works subject to a maximum of Rs. 50.00 lakh in general area or 33.33% subject to minimum of Rs. 75.00 lakh in difficult areas such as Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Sikkim and North Eastern States, A&N Islands, Lakshadweep and ITDP areas. In addition, under the Technology Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture in North Eastern and Himalayan States, higher levels of assistance @ 50% upto Rs. 4.00 crore for setting up and Rs. 1.00 crore for Upgradation of fruit and vegetables processing is available. MFPI has also been implementing various other Plan schemes for promotion and development of food processing industries in the country. Under these schemes, financial assistance in the form of grant in aid is provided for development of infrastructure, human resource development, promotion of quality assurance and research & development and other promotional measures to encourage development of the food processing industries.